



sound, practical, realistic & confidential advice

Unfortunately, once again **Cauliflowers** are an issue, last year it was the cold weather that was affecting price, this year its too warm and varieties are maturing too early and too quickly, hence prices are rock bottom and some crops are being abandoned as they mature faster than the market can take them. It is obvious that at some point there will be a shortfall, probably when those January varieties that are being harvested now become scarce later in the year. The sad thing is that there will be no peak in prices, the market is managed in such a way that peaks are ironed out but troughs remain. The consequence is there will be no opportunity to recover, reinvest, or build a reserve because the peak just isn't enough.

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We wish you all a very merry Christmas and a very happy, busy and profitable New Year!



LAUNCH OF NEW GRANT SCHEME

Farming & Forestry Improvement Scheme (FFIS)

The FFIS scheme has been launched to help support farming, forestry and horticultural businesses in to become more efficient at using resources, with the aim of making businesses more profitable whilst reducing the impact on the environment. There is £20million available with a grant rate of up to 40% with a maximum grant allowable of £25,000. Grants are available for 'green projects' and new machinery to enable businesses to grow in an environmentally friendly way.

Objectives:

- Improving animal health and welfare
- Reducing energy usage e.g. heat exchangers, gel coolers, ice builders
- Improving management of manures/nutrients e.g. slurry injectors, separation systems, GPS.
- Improving soil quality
- Improving water resource management e.g. pipe work, divert roof water to storage, rainwater harvesting.
- Improving forestry resources e.g. timber processors, trailers, forestry grabs.

Not eligible: Slurry stores and additional rings, slurry tankers, muck spreaders or direct replacements, standard equipment, legislative requirements or an industry obligation.

It is anticipated that the scheme will run every 4 months until the end of 2013. Deadline for the first round of applications is **17 January 2012**. If you have a proposal you wish to discuss then contact your local DEFRA RDPE Delivery Team by calling **0117 372 3634**.

We have had reports of farm produce being taken from fields. If you believe this to be the case then ring **101** and speak to Devon and Cornwall Police. The crime will probably be dealt with over the phone and little done as there will be hardly any forensic evidence. However if the incidents are reported to the police then they can build a picture of whether this is an isolated incident or part a bigger picture and allocate resources accordingly. It is afterall theft.

If you require a large print copy of this edition or any other information contact the Office on 01736 352 012.

Earlier this year **Solway Recycling** moved two loads of crop cover **plastic** back up to Cumbria **free of charge**. They are willing to do the same for this coming year's potato crop on the understanding that the loads are at least

- 50% free of contamination by weight
- 25 tonne
- From a single pick up point.

If you think you have sufficient plastic for one full load then please contact Solway direct on 01387 730666 and ask for Kenny Ritchie.

However if you think you have only a part load then please contact us here at the Business Centre and we will do our best to put sufficient loads together for you. However they will still need to be loaded from a single pick up point.

As most of you will be aware the **ESA** in Penwith is now coming to an end and the only replacement is the HLS and ELS schemes. For those of you who do not fall into the HLS lucky pot there is ELS. ELS will pay £30/ha and for most farmers within the ESA with good boundaries, with areas that do not receive fertiliser and are still grazed the ELS scheme should be easily achievable. The problem is that as a business you have been receiving £85/ha and it will drop to £30/ha, how will your business cope with this drop in income. If you are thinking about cropping some of the fields which have been in grass for over 15 years they will need an "Environmental Impact Assessment" first, failure to do so could create a cross compliance issue with the RPA. We are hoping to put on an information day to explain to you what are some of the main issues surrounding the demise of the ESA and which will look at grant aid, cropping and planning, so look out for this in the post.

Three friends married women from different parts of the world.....

The first man married a Greek girl. He told her that she was to do the dishes and all house cleaning. It took a couple of days, but on the third day he came home to see a clean house and the dishes washed and put away.

The second man married a Thai girl. He gave his new wife orders that she was to do all the cleaning, dishes and the cooking. The first day he didn't see any results but the following day he saw it was better and by the third day he saw his house was clean, dishes were done and there was a meal on the table.

The third man married a Cornish girl. On the advice of his friends he ordered her to do the dishes, clean the house, cook the meals and do the laundry. On the first day he didn't see anything, on the second day he didn't see anything either but by the third day some of the swelling had gone down and he could see a little out of his left eye, his arm had healed sufficiently so that he could load the dishwasher and fix himself a sandwich, although he does still have some trouble urinating!!!



Would you like some help with computers?

We have arranged for an IT tutor, Ellen, to come and help you with any computer needs you might have. Ellen is fully qualified, very experienced (and very nice) and won't try to bamboozle you with computer jargon.!

Appointments are for one hour and can be on a one to one basis or for you and a friend to come along together and if you would like you can bring your own laptop. However if this doesn't suit you please feel free to discuss your needs with us Here are some examples of what Ellen might be able to help you with:

- Spreadsheets (for accounting?)
- Word processing/letters etc
- Producing Leaflets
- Using the Internet in general
- Entering your VAT online



Unfortunately due to changes in funding we will have to charge for this service but it is subsidized by the Farm Business Centre and the cost to you will only be £10 per hour. The first day is booked for **Tuesday, 17th January 2012** and to book an appointment please call Helena or Debbie on **01736 352012**.

The Penwith Farm Business do their best to ensure that all information and advice given is up to date and accurate. However, the information and advice does not constitute legal or professional advice and Edward Richardson and the Penwith Farm Business Centre cannot accept any liability for actions arising from its use. You should seek your own professional or legal view as needed. Advice is based only on the facts and information provided.

